# *ENHANCING THE FORESTS OF INDIAN LANDS*

*Forest Management Program of Indian Lands*

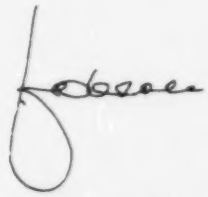
*1985-1990*

The forest is Canada's most precious natural resource. As the world's chief exporter of wood products, Canada has long made the forest a key to economic development. But the forest is also essential for many other reasons: its beneficial effects on the climate, soils, and watercourses are well documented. A natural habitat for wildlife and a highly diversified ecological environment, the forest also serves as a site for nature education, conservation and recreation. In this respect, the forestry sector plays a major role in satisfying Canadians' needs and aspirations. That is why attention must be focussed on the need for sustainable development.

Nevertheless, intensive logging remains a major concern. In the past, and often still today, more timber was harvested than public and private forests could produce. This same situation has also occurred in certain forests located on Indian lands. As part of a major effort to make up this forest resource deficit, Forestry Canada is encouraging native peoples to take the future of their forests into their own hands.

A special program, the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands, was implemented to this end in 1985 within the sub-agreement on forestry development which is administered jointly by Forestry Canada and the Quebec Department of Energy and Resources. This document presents the Program's many facets and lists its achievements during its five-year existence. It discusses the Program's underlying philosophy and goals, the methods used and the results obtained in each of the participating communities. It is a working tool which, as a follow-up to the joint efforts by the government and the Amerindian nations, is intended to increase the contribution of the forests located on Indian lands to the well-being of the native communities.





The Honourable Frank Oberle
Minister of State-Forestry
Government of Canada

Serge Légaré/Forestry Canada

# A NEW EXPERIENCE IN FOREST MANAGEMENT

The Canada-Quebec Foresty Agreement has resulted in major efforts to develop the forests located on Indian Lands in Quebec, since the spring of 1985. Under the **Forest Management Program of Indian Lands**, Forestry Canada and the native organizations concerned have been working together to enhance this resource, the very essence of traditional Amerindian economy and culture.

In five years, the participating communities have increased their knowledge of their forest resources, making them more capable of planning forest development and of increasing productivity through various types of silvicultural operations. In the long term, not only will forest preservation yield appreciable economic spin-offs, but the social and recreational needs of the communities will also be fulfilled.

To promote native autonomy in matters of land management, Forestry Canada, through the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands, has provided native communities with the necessary human and financial resources to implement numerous forest management projects. In many cases, the various forestry activities - conversion cutting, reforestation, natural regeneration, release cutting, forest road construction - have fostered local expertise in silvicultural operations.

## *THE NATIVE COMMUNITIES OF QUEBEC*

In establishing the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands, Forestry Canada made a commitment to support native communities at all levels of forest management. Program objectives therefore went beyond a mere increase in forest production. The following pages highlight the Program's major achievements, especially regarding the transfer of knowledge to the concerned populations, the simplification of forest conservation and management methods, and the training of native workers to take the future of their forests into their own hands.

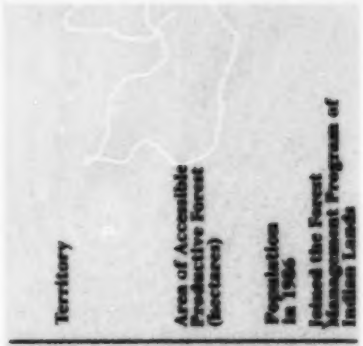
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Québec Region

Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada
Région du Québec

Allen Gagnon/Forestry Canada

# LIVING ENVIRONMENT, SOURCE OF ECONOMIC PRODUCTION

## Indian Lands
## Area and Population



| Territory | Area of Accessible Productive Forest (hectares) | Population in 1986 | Joined the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mistassini | 68 344 | 1 967 | yes |
| Waswanipi | 32 800 | 648 | yes |
| Betsiamites | 19 020 | 1 752 | yes |
| River Desert | 15 140 | 794 | yes |
| Waskaganish | 7 355 | 1 179 | yes |
| Doncaster (1) | 7 149 | (1) | yes |
| Restigouche | 3 325 | 896 | yes |
| Kahnawake | 3 288 | 5 279 | yes |
| Weymontachie | 2 885 | 570 | yes |
| Kawawachikamach | 2 514 | 395 | no |
| Timiskaming | 2 173 | 306 | yes |
| Mingan | 1 703 | 323 | no |
| St-Régis (2) | 1 150 | 3 395 | no |
| Obedjiwan | 802 | 1 007 | yes |
| Manouane | 723 | 1 065 | yes |
| Mashteuiats | 673 | 1 340 | yes |
| Odanak | 451 | 200 | no |
| Maliotenam | 300 | 683 | yes |
| Lac Simon | 238 | 554 | yes |
| Kanesatake | 189 | 661 | yes |
| Withworth | 161 | 115 | no |
| Maria (3) | 139 | 375 | no |
| Nemiscau | n/a | 205 | yes |
| Other (2) | 289 | 10 096 | no |
| TOTAL | 170 811 | 33 805 | |

(1) Joint territory of the Kahnawake and Kanesatake reserves
(2) Estimated in relation to the total forest area
(3) Joined the Eastern Quebec Development Plan

Sources: Forestry Canada
Statistics Canada (for populations)

For the native peoples of Quebec and Canada, the forest has always been the backdrop to everyday life. For thousands of years, Amerindians have maintained close ties with the forest. Not only did they derive their means of subsistence directly from the forest, but they also used it as the base of an entire culture and their spiritual beliefs. Today, native peoples are becoming increasingly aware of the deterioration of their forests and recognize the need to protect and manage them for various purposes.

Approximately 170 000 hectares of Quebec's productive and accessible forests are currently located on Indian lands. The Forest Management Program of Indian Lands was created to improve the potential of these forests. The program has now been implemented in more than 95 % of this area. Concurrently, the communities of some 18 900 Amerindians, making up about 55 % of the province's native population, have become involved in the program.

Various means have been placed at the disposal of the native communities to help them take charge of forest management on their respective lands. These means aim at:

1- increased knowledge of forest resources through inventories and management plans;

2- the implementation of silvicultural operations such as conversion cutting, site preparation and planting;

3- the promotion of technology transfer and the improvement of native peoples' forest management skills.

Over the past five years, Forestry Canada has invested $4 million in projects completed under the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands. This sum has been used primarily to conduct studies, finance silvicultural operations and provide the expertise required to carry out these operations. During this period, the partnership between the native peoples and Forestry Canada has become more flexible and has adapted to the needs of the various communities.

Serge Jauvin/DIAND

# CONFIDENCE, SKILLS, AUTONOMY

The forests located on Indian reserves are generally in poor condition due to overcutting, insufficient regeneration and stand depletion. This deterioration, combined with a lack of skilled labour to re-establish the forests, has reduced the number of jobs available in the forestry sector.

The Forest Management Program of Indian Lands was created just in time since, by 1985, there was an urgent need to manage forests so that they would reach their full potential. The Program would enable native peoples to create jobs while renewing their precious resource.

Historically, native peoples have always counted on the forest for activities such as hunting, fishing and recreation, and for supplies such as firewood, lumber and craft materials.

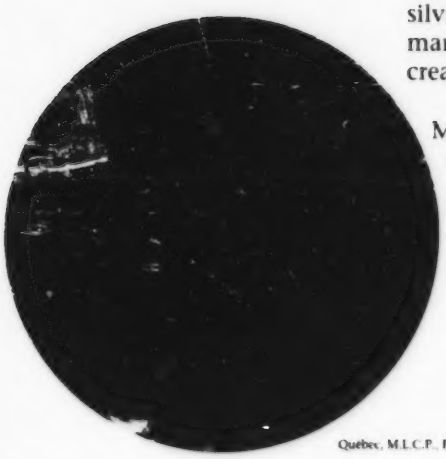
Thus, implementation of the Program raised certain fears, particularly with regard to silvicultural techniques used in timber production. Some native peoples wanted birch stands preserved, since birch is used in making snowshoes and other products; others wanted to preserve aspen stands, because they attract beavers. And everyone wanted to safeguard the traditional use of other forest resources, such as maple trees and blueberries.

A major awareness campaign was needed to convince the native peoples that forest use could be both planned and varied. A number of information sessions and consultations revealed the native peoples' desire for multi-purpose management. Band councils learned about basic silvicultural concepts and the value of their forest resources. As a result, 16 communities have to date participated in the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands and benefited from its support. Of these 16 communities, 12 have undertaken large-scale forest management projects.



The results of this first five-year phase are significant: the Program has created the equivalent of 125 one-year jobs and generated direct earnings of $2.1 million for native peoples. Long-term estimates show that the allowable cut on Indian lands could double. In addition to these direct results, the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands has proved to be a catalyst for native socioeconomic development as a result of off-reserve forest management contracts.

Several native communities have acquired greater confidence in their ability to take charge of their economic growth. The creation of companies committed to forest management and the increased profitability of certain silvicultural activities bear witness to the new vitality in the forestry sector managed by Canada's native peoples. Indeed, hundreds of new jobs have been created in recent years!



Because of the training silvicultural workers received under the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands, native peoples have been able to significantly increase their forest management skills. These skills were quickly recognized off the reserves and have led to additional spin-offs for the communities in terms of jobs and revenue. The outlook is excellent, especially regarding the major tree-planting operations planned for public forests.

Québec, M.L.C.P., Pierre Bernier

# *FIVE YEARS*

## *AT A GLANCE*

**1985-1986**
- *Information and familiarization with administrative procedures.*
- *Eleven communities join the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands.*
- *Completion of management plans.*
- *Total expenditures of $235 200 and creation of 26 seasonal jobs.*

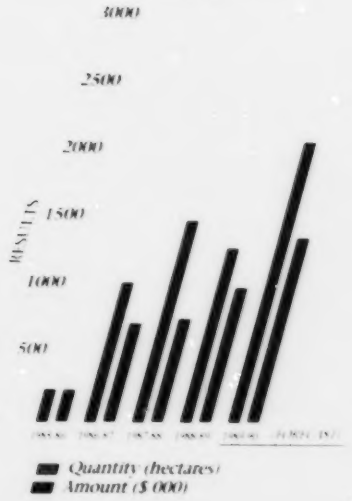
**1986-1987**
- *Management plans completed and new projects begun on 1 039 hectares.*
- *Participation of 12 communities and the Atikamekw Council.*
- *Increased interest of native peoples in silviculture.*
- *Total expenditures of $696 400 and creation of 158 seasonal jobs.*

**1987-1988**
- *Stepping up of forestry projects (1 493 hectares).*
- *Deployment of technical teams.*
- *Better quality work and increased worker productivity.*
- *Acquisition of expertise and off-reserve recognition.*
- *Total expenditures of $733 400 and creation of 130 seasonal jobs.*

**1988-1989**
- *Improved technical supervision.*
- *Completion of silvicultural operations in 13 communities (1 299 hectares).*
- *Training of native forestry workers.*
- *Total expenditures of $984 000 and creation of 170 seasonal jobs.*
- *Creation of 6 native corporations and procurement of off-reserve contracts as a result of the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands.*

**1989-1990**
*(ongoing)*
- *Completion of silvicultural operations (2 110 hectares and 200 seasonal jobs).*
- *Evaluation of operations by outside consultants.*
- *Consultation with 13 communities.*
- *Training of forestry workers in 5 communities.*
- *Total expenditures of $1 349 400.*
- *Off-reserve contracts procured as a result of the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands.*

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS






## GENERAL BALANCE SHEET 1985-1990 — SUMMARY BY ACTIVITY

| ACTIVITIES | 1985-1986 | | 1986-1987 | | 1987-1988 | | 1988-1989 | | 1989-1990* | | 1985-1990 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Quantity | Amount ($) | Quantity | Amount ($) | Quantity | Amount ($) | Quantity | Amount ($) | Quantity | Amount ($) | Quantity | Amount ($) |
| Conversion cutting (ha) | 42 | 8 320 | 101 | 102 173 | 104 | 79 079 | 129 | 53 018 | 211 | 107 140 | 777 | 349 730 |
| Land preparation (ha) | 86 | 14 160 | 445 | 92 043 | 860 | 126 412 | 516 | 94 446 | 937 | 195 154 | 2 804 | 522 115 |
| Reforestation (seedlings) (ha) | 91 000 (36) | 12 740 | 312 001 (127) | 54 497 | 1 025 081 (447) | 138 644 | 1 289 568 (614) | 181 039 | 1 826 750 (766) | 257 124 | 4 544 400 (1980) | 643 044 |
| Seedling tending (ha) | 19 | 6 900 | 82 | 22 412 | 10 | 2 250 | 10 | 3 605 | 108 | 29 463 | 229 | 64 630 |
| Stand tending (ha) | 99 | 64 577 | 94 | 56 000 | 73 | 58 815 | 29 | 11 855 | 89 | 50 344 | 384 | 221 591 |
| Forest road system (km) | — | — | 15.7 | 72 183 | 6.7 | 32 089 | 22.6 | 142 599 | 6.7 | 18 485 | 51.6 | 255 366 |
| Management plan, study (ha) | — | 85 811 | — | 115 883 | — | 15 500 | — | 16 844 | — | 6 000 | — | 239 538 |
| Technical expertise | — | 42 700 | — | 130 448 | — | 257 661 | — | 386 246 | — | 597 402 | — | 1 414 447 |
| Adm., management, accounting | — | — | — | 39 956 | — | 43 040 | — | 62 558 | — | 88 278 | — | 233 832 |
| Other (lot lines, cones, training) | — | — | — | 12 313 | — | — | — | 41 809 | — | — | — | 54 122 |
| TOTAL (ha) | 242 | 235 208 | 1 039 | 696 408 | 1 493 | 733 400 | 1 299 | 984 009 | 2 111 | 1 349 390 | 6 185 | 3 998 415 |

* forecast

***Since 1985, the silvicultural operations carried out under the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands have steadily increased in quantity and quality. The budget allocated for technical supervision has progressively increased, ensuring adequate technical follow-up and continuous improvement in the quality of the projects implemented.***

Serge Jauvin/DIAND

# *IN THE COMMUNITIES*

# Atikamekw Sipi

# Manouane

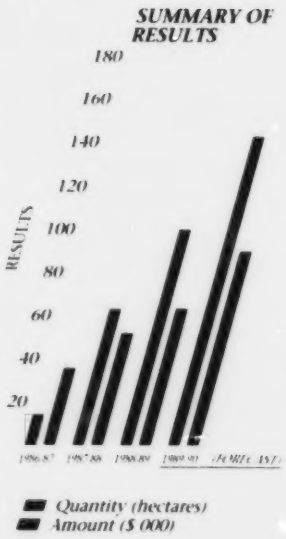
Serge Jauvin/DIAND

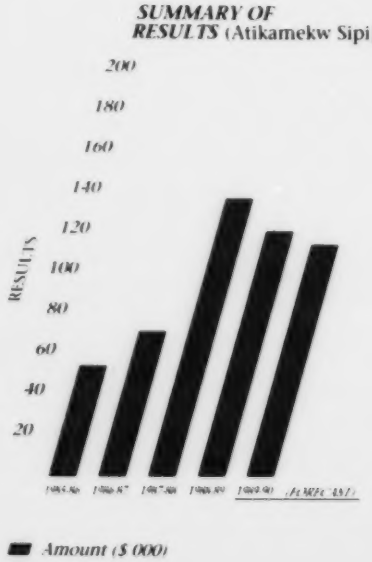
Through the Council of the Atikamekw nation (Atikamekw Sipi), the communities of Manouane, Obedjiwan and Weymontachie established a highly efficient joint forestry service. However, the limited areas of these reserves (700, 800 and 2900 hectares of productive and accessible forest respectively) alone could not support the communities' economic growth. Thus, the major contribution of the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands has been in training a qualified labour force capable of working off the reserves. This off-reserve activity has served as a springboard for significant economic growth in the communities.

Together, the three communities are the champions of reforestation, with 6.5 million seedlings planted off their reserves in 1989, providing work for approximately 100 people. Off-reserve contracts and support from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs enabled the communities to acquire three skidders, further reinforcing their ability to offer their services in other regions.

Along with this remarkable success, the Atikamekws have begun to take charge of managing their own forests. The Forest Management Program of Indian Lands has provided them with funds to hire native forestry workers and has sparked a major economic and social awakening, resulting in service exchanges between the bands and greater solidarity within the nation.

Forest operations in Manouane have converted depleted stands into regeneration zones. Access to forest management sectors has been improved through the construction of forest roads. Because of an adapted management plan, the silvicultural operations did not affect the two sugar bushes exploited using traditional methods, a custom important to the Manouane population. Through the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands, forest workers have been trained, and their skills, especially in planting, are now being put to use off the reserve. Even Manouane school children have been educated in forest management, and a forest interpretation centre is being planned for them. The residents of Manouane are hoping for a second phase in the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands that would place more emphasis on training and technology transfer.

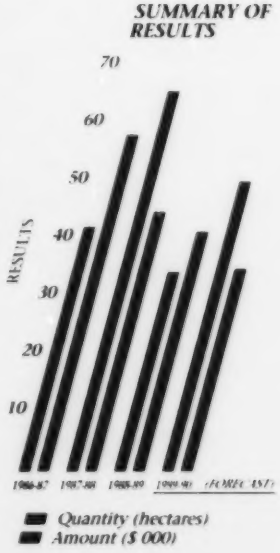


# Obedjiwan

S.A.E. François Trochon

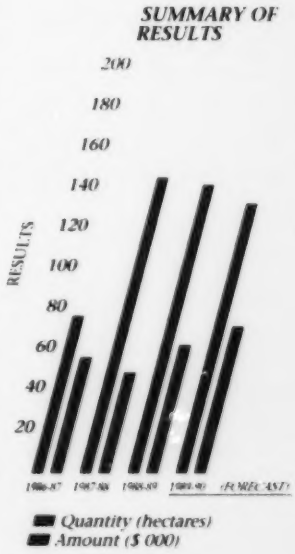
The Obedjiwan's forested land has been less affected than other Amerindian forests, but management projects were nonetheless implemented. The construction of forest roads have made the resource accessible, and the activities have contributed to the training of skilled workers. Silvicultural projects have resulted in windfall recovery and the reforestation of unproductive lands. Certain stands also underwent precommercial thinning.




# Weymontachie

Once adequate forest roads were built to access lands earmarked for forest management, operations to renew production in non-regenerated burnovers and convert depleted stands into productive zones were carried out.

The people of Weymontachie hope that the range of eligible activities will be broadened under a renewed program to emphasize integrated and multipurpose resource management. The community is therefore planning a demonstration forest to increase forest management knowledge among young Atikamekws.



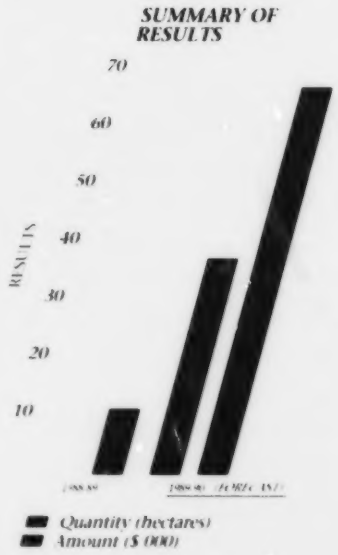
Serge Legare/Forestry Canada

S.S.A. Jean Iser

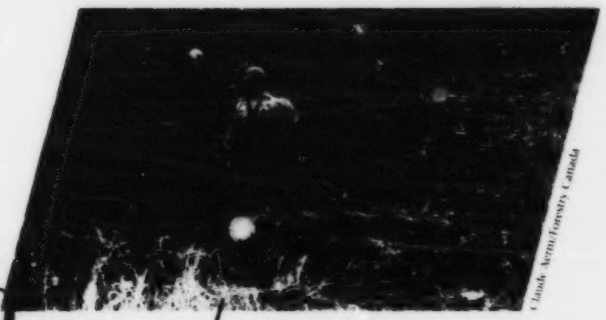
# Lac Simon

The Algonquins of Lac Simon, whose manageable forest covers 240 hectares, implemented their silvicultural intervention plan in 1988. Their depleted forest needed to be redeveloped and the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands was seen as a major asset in reaching this objective. The Algonquins formed a forest committee, and operations were entrusted to a native entrepreneur who hired his own workers. Depleted stand conversion, precommercial thinning and forest road construction are among the operations carried out to date. These operations contribute in particular to training workers who will subsequently be able to find jobs off the reserve.





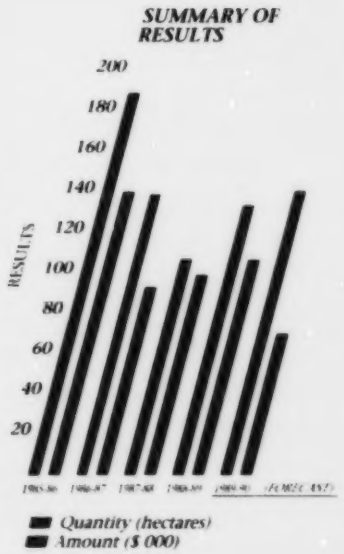
Allen Gagnon/Forestry Canada



Canada Newsprint Canada

# River Desert

With a vast manageable forest covering 15 000 hectares, the River Desert community does not depend directly on its forest as an economic activity. The Band Council defrayed the costs of a management plan in 1984, before the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands came into force. The Program's contribution to this native community focusses primarily on reorienting logging techniques. These were previously left to the initiative of private entrepreneurs. The main silvicultural operations completed to date have involved conversion cutting, site preparation, reforestation and stand tending.



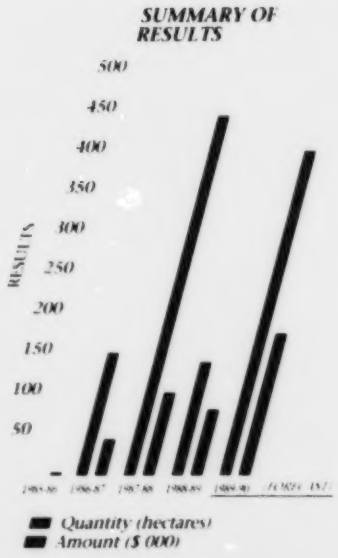
Rene Labbe/Forestry Canada

# Mistassini

The productive forest of Mistassini covers over 68 000 hectares, ranking first among Quebec's Indian-land forests. The management plan for this forest estimates potential production at 125 000 cubic metres of timber a year. Silvicultural operations have been implemented under the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands.

Since the forest is mature, the required work consists in preparing the land and planting seedlings once cutting has been completed. The community nevertheless intends to harvest only part of its resources, since extensive clear cutting can lead to a decrease in wildlife resources already threatened by intensive harvesting. In 1988, the Band Council formed a forest corporation to manage forest programs. If more funds are set aside for planning, a larger number of projects may be carried out in the future.



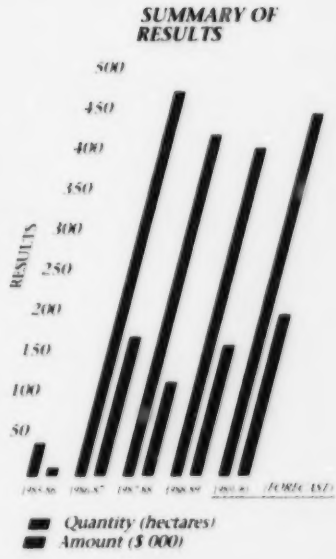


Rene Labbe/Forestry Canada

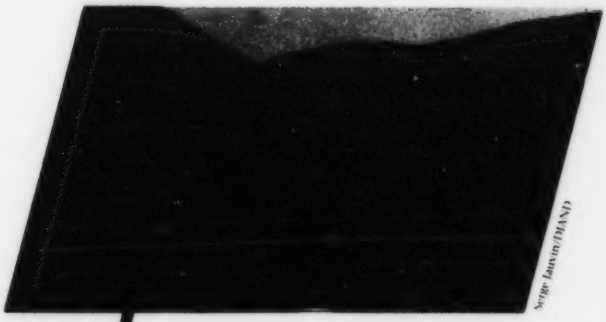
Rene Labbe-Forestry Canada

# Waswanipi

With 32 800 manageable hectares, Waswanipi has the second largest Indian-land forest in Quebec. Site preparation and reforestation operations have been carried out here through the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands. Following the signing of the James Bay Agreement, Waswanipi grew rapidly. It is now felt that industrial processing projects could be profitable ventures. The community has learned about forest management and, henceforth, harvesting on the community's lands could automatically entail reforestation. Despite certain labour problems, approximately 500 000 seedlings were planted on the reserve in 1989. Major reforestation contracts were also obtained off the reserve. Finally, should operations on lands under provincial jurisdiction become eligible for funding under the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands, approximately 400 additional hectares could be reforested each year over the next five years.



Allen Gagnon/Forestry Canada



Serge Jauvin/DIAND

# Restigouche

Between 1983 and 1987, silvicultural operations were carried out on the Restigouche community's land under the Eastern Quebec Development Plan; in 1987, the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands took over. A quality forest management plan was established and silvicultural operations covering 152 hectares have been carried out to date. Restigouche's native peoples are expected to participate more actively in improving their forest heritage, and the support of the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands should enable them to attain their forestry and socioeconomic objectives.

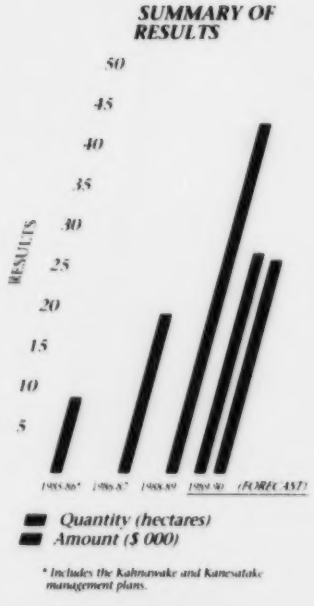
Although recent, the community's participation in the program has enabled the native peoples to complete operations primarily dealing with stand tending. Other silvicultural activities, such as conversion cutting, site preparation and reforestation, have also been carried out

Marc Lamontagne, Forestry Canada

Serge Jauvin/DIAND

# Doncaster

This forested area covers over 7 000 hectares and is managed by the Kahnawake and Kanesatake reserves. It offers a substantial allowable cut in hardwood species. However, the two communities concerned believe that management of the Doncaster forest should place greater emphasis on preserving the wildlife habitat rather than on attaining timber production objectives. A few small-scale thinning and reforestation projects have been initiated under the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands. Native workers have been trained, with projects carried out under the supervision of a technical team from River Desert. Given the Doncaster communities' expectations, the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands should direct future projects towards more integrated forest management.




* Includes the Kahnawake and Kanesatake management plans.

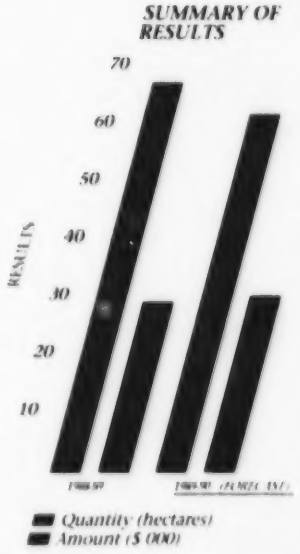
Serge Legaré/Forestry Canada

# Betsiamites

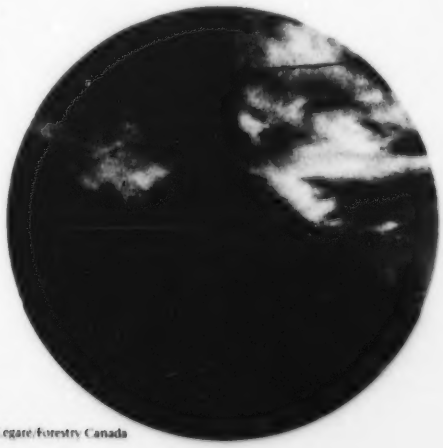
With a manageable area of 19 000 hectares, the forest constitutes the primary resource and main industry of Betsiamites. The Band Council created a company responsible for managing all of the reserve's forest activities. Every year, approximately 15 native people register in training courses and all are proud of the program's continued development over the past five years. Unlike previous years, logging is now profitable. The Forest Management Program of Indian Lands has enabled the native people of Betsiamites to carry out most of the silvicultural operations required by their management plan, namely site preparation, stand tending and reforestation. The funds allocated under the program during these first five years have enabled the native peoples to increase forest productivity as well as their interest in forest management.

# Maliotenam

A management plan was carried out by Forestry Canada for this small, 300-hectare forest in 1988. Stand conversion, reforestation and thinning projects were completed in two years. A forest engineer was hired in 1989 to ensure follow-up and train workers. Given the small size of the reserve's forest, residents are banking on obtaining silviculture contracts off the reserve, especially for clearing land expropriated for electrical lines. A non-profit corporation will soon be created to manage the forest and off-reserve projects. During the summer of 1989, forty workers and a native team leader completed two off-reserve contracts. The Forest Management Program of Indian Lands has become a springboard for native workers' training and employment.





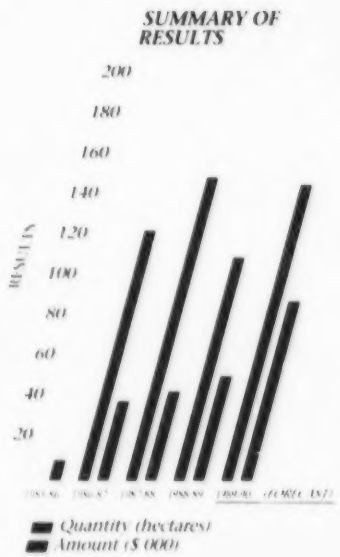
Serge Legare/Forestry Canada

Serge Legare-Forestry Canada

# Mashteuiats

The Mashteuiats community of Lac Saint-Jean at Pointe-Bleue has 670 hectares of manageable forest, most of which is divided into 25 private properties. A forest co-operative was formed by the Band Council in 1981. The reserve was one of the first to join the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands. Projects involving depleted stand conversion, reforestation, plantation weeding and forest road construction have been carried out. A Montagnais forest engineer has been on the job from the outset of the Program. Training courses have been regularly organized for silvicultural workers for several years and 10 workers return each year to carry out operations. Moreover, the co-operative obtained contracts to complete off-reserve projects. It is hoped that in the future, the Program will stress the construction of forest roads to open the southwest section of the territory.






## Other Communities

Smaller projects were carried out in other native communities under the Forest Management Program of Indian Lands. This is especially true for the Algonquins of Timiskaming and the Crees of Nemiscau and Waskaganish, where approximately 60 hectares of land were mechanically prepared for reforestation and over 85 000 seedlings were planted.

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